

Berkeley County Sheriff's Office



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, January 21, 2016

Opening of New Jail Floor Set for Monday

MONCKS CORNER, SC – Berkeley County Sheriff Duane Lewis announced that the opening of the third floor of the Hill-Finklea Detention Center to inmate housing is set for Monday, January 25, 2016. This announcement follows last year's work by Supervisor Bill Peagler and County Council to include funding the necessary personnel to open the third floor.

Sheriff Lewis stressed the opening of the third floor was long overdue.

"Six years after the jail expansion was originally scheduled to open, I am happy to announce to the taxpayers of Berkeley County that the third floor of the Detention Center will be open to inmate housing next week," said Sheriff Lewis. "The opening of the third floor will not only allow the Sheriff's Office to increase the quality of service we provide, but it also has the great potential of keeping our inmates safer, which in turn can save taxpayer money from less claims. Opening the third floor of the jail also fulfills my promise to the people of Berkeley County, when I said during the campaign last year that it would be opened soon after I took office."

Supervisor Peagler echoed Lewis' statement on fulfilling a promise to the residents of Berkeley County.

"I commend Sheriff Lewis and his staff for working hard to open the third floor," said Peagler. "Like Sheriff Lewis, I promised the people of Berkeley County that we would provide more resources to our emergency personnel, so we can provide better public safety to the county. Working with the majority of County Council, we were able to pass a budget that not only increased wages for our emergency personnel but also provided the funding of the eight new detention center officers needed to open the third floor."

There will be press availability to tour the jail and attend the opening ceremony on Monday. The tours, which will be in compliance with the Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities in South Carolina, will be from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The opening ceremony will begin promptly at 11:00 AM.

The tours and ceremony are not open to the public.

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Members of the media need to confirm their attendance for Monday's events before 5:00 PM on Friday, January 22, 2016.